trading and star trading house are as under :—

Category	Average FOB value of physical exports during the preceding three licensing years	FOB value of physical exports during the preceding licensing years
Export House :	Rs. 10 crores	Rs. 15 crores
Trading House :	Rs. 50 crores	Rs. 75 crores
Star Trading House :	Rs. 250 crores	Rs. 300 crores

(b) Exporters having high volume of past export performance and strong international marketing capability and infrastructure, as per criteria laid down in Chapter XII of the Export & Import Policy, 1992-97 (Revised Edition : March 1993) are granted the relevant status. For simplification the recognisation criteria has been changed from net foreign exchange earnings (NFE) to FOB value of past exports.

(c) and (d) Requests of this nature are considered in the review of Export & Import Policy which is a continuous process. changes are made in the policy as and when considered necessary.

Task Force to study China's spectacular export performance

2144. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a task force has recently been set up by Government to study, compare and contrast China's spectacular export performance and suggest immediate remedial measures to given shot in the arm to Indian export;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the task force has submitted any interim/final report to Government in this regard;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when the task force is likely to submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (e) Government of India had recently set up a Task Force to study and make recommendation for promoting the flow of foreign investment in India. The Task Force has since submitted its report in which various measures for promoting flow of foreign investment in India have been suggested. It has also suggested certain procedural bottlenecks to be removed.

Effect on export of engineering goods due to I. P. R. S.

2145. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times of June 22, 1993 captioned 'Engg. goods exporters in a bind over funds'; if so, the amount of pending claims with regard to International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS); and

(b) whether it is a fact that the export of engineering goods has been affected and exports during the past four months have shown a downward trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir. As on 2nd August 1993 claims worth Rs. 211 crores were pending for want of funds.

(b) There has been no downward trend in export of engineering items during April-May, 1993 as compared to exports during the corresponding period in the preceding year, Export statistics for June, 1993 onwards are not yet available.

Export of Tobacco to the Erstwhile USSR

2146. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what was the total quantity of tobacco purchased by the erstwhile USSR and Com-

monwealth of Independent States during this year from India mainly through the loans being paid by Government of India;

(b) whether Government have any details of the exporter of tobacco who have secured such orders;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any effort has been made to encourage tobacco exporters during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) As per information received from the Tobacco Board in the current financial year, Russia has so far contracted for import 19000 tonnes of FCV tobacco by utilising the adhoc advance extended by the Government of India, Russia has awarded these contracts to about 27 exporters for quantities ranging from 100 MTs to 3000 MTs.

(d) The steps taken to promote exports of tobacco include :—

—General policy measures like unification of exchange rate and reduction in interest on export credit etc. to encourage exports;

—Visit of trade delegation led by Chairman, Tobacco Board to Russia in April, 93 for promoting export of tobacco;

—Encouraging exporters to establish their overseas offices in Russia and other CIS republics for promotion of exports;

—Granting permission to exporters for shipment of tobacco for stocks and sale operation as a special case by the R. B. I.;

—Participation in international exhibitions jointly with exporters to publicise their products.

Proposal for revamping MMTC and STC

2147. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM :
DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for revamping the State Trading Corporation and Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Consequent on the decanalisation of the import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised through STC and MMTC, Government have been reviewing the need to re-orient and re-structure these Corporations in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and a competitive environment. The Corporations themselves are also in the process of formulating and implementing plans and strategins to adapt to the current environment.

Demand and Production of Castor Oil

2148. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL :
SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM :
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an upsurge in world demand for castor oil, more than 50 per cent of which is being met by India; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would gear upto this boom by increasing its share by regulating domestic consumption as a major part of which is used in adulteration of edible oil;

(c) whether Government would take advantage of the expertise gained by India Oil and Produce Exporters Association and involve them deeply in the promotion of castor oil exports; and

(d) the total production of castor oil during the last three years alongwith its domestic demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes Sir. As per information with the Basic Chemical, Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXIL) Bombay, out of a total world Castor oil demand, India's share is more than 60% at present.